



## **Special Education Advisory Committee**

### **PTA/PTO Talking Points**

September 9, 2020

### **Business Meeting**

#### **Public Comments**

Parent, Concerned with new parent statements that was added to the IEP form: One paragraph changed to a legal five paragraph statement and "mutual cooperation" and "understanding my rights" were removed, concerned that the new IEP parent statement is predetermination, school board is mentioned many times, policy 5310 statements require an IEP team meeting, parents signing away rights or appears we are signing away rights, it is a confrontational statement, needs to be pulled back.

Parent, Concerned with new parent statements. Parent is new to the area and concerns relayed to school has been dismissed even though they have child with a higher level of need.

Parent, Concerned with new parent prior notice shouldn't be included with parent consent and reverted back to original language. Pupil Services using a school board motion to prevent IEP teams to meet children's unique needs. Why isn't LCPS offering models based on a child's needs. LCPS is requiring parents to provide special education services.

Parent, Concerned with regression. Child's IEP has been cut, he isn't receiving services. Children need face to face with educators.

Parent Comment, Concerned with new parent statements: Will not sign IEP due to parent statement, vague and ambiguous, gives authority to LCPS to unilaterally make changes without parent consent, waives compensatory services, it does not expire, LCPS will argue this parent statement is appropriate.

#### **Sharon Tropf, SEAC Chair Report:**

- Call for new SEAC Executive Committee Elections. At our October SEAC meeting we will have our slate of members presented. Elections are scheduled for November.
- Executive Committee will be conducting a thorough review of SEAC bylaws. By December we will be providing proposed changes.

- Current work includes: Annual Report will be condensed, will be providing updates to school board in November. SEAC Annual Survey was published in Spanish and English, with 2,953 total respondents, 1,844 Completed Responses & 1,109 Partially Completed.
  - Increased Special Education Satisfaction, Parent concerns with Poor Communication with families. SEAC doesn't have a mechanism in place to send out communication to our special education families. SEAC has asked to utilize communication within LCPS and asked Department of Pupil Services and Special Education Department for assistance.
- Membership. We have 12 PTA/PTO reps, we are looking for a representative from each school's PTA/PTO.
- Member Training. We are putting together a training video.
- SEAC Members. We have 16 active members and have the capacity for 21. Applications are online at [https://www.lcps.org/cms/lib/VA01000195/Centricity/domain/103/membership/SEAC\\_Membership\\_Application\\_Revised\\_Jan.%202017.pdf](https://www.lcps.org/cms/lib/VA01000195/Centricity/domain/103/membership/SEAC_Membership_Application_Revised_Jan.%202017.pdf)

### **SEAC Subcommittees Current Work:**

- Policy 5310. Brought to SSS Committee by Pupil Services. Currently states no IEP amendments are allowed outside of an IEP meeting. SSS committee sent it to SEAC in May. SEAC Policy committee reviewed June 6 and brought to the June 10 full SEAC with voted items and recommendations from our community. June 18, SSS Committee made minor changes. The policy went through revisions outside of SSS committee by LCPS' outside counsel the school board sent the policy back to SSS committee.
- The SSS committee drafted changes to Policy 5310 back to SEAC for their feedback.
- The Policy subcommittee has meetings scheduled 9/24/2020 & 10/1 to discuss changes made by outside counsel and make recommendations and give feedback.
- SEAC has 3 standing Committees: Policy & Compliance, Specialized Programs & Services, Executive Functioning & Social-Emotional Learning. SEAC is sharing information of survey to subcommittees to carryout action items. Previous work for subcommittee for 2019-2020 needs to be shared with Chair for input for the SEAC Annual Report.
- Executive Committee Meeting 9/23/2020 at 6:30PM.
- Equity Committee meets First Thursday of the month at 5:30PM. Dr. Amy Elledge is no longer able to fill this roll. Equity committee is active and needs a SEAC member to report and represent SEAC.

### **Upcoming SEAC Meetings:**

- **October 7, 2020** Presentation - 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., Supporting Special Education Students During COVID-19, Presenter: Henry "Hank" Millward, Director, VDOE Office of Specialized Education Facilities and Family Engagement
- **November 4, 2020:** Presentation 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Trauma and COVID-19,

Presenter: Dr. Kelly Henderson, Executive Director, Formed Families Forward

**Parent Resource Services:**

- Supports families in being engaged partners with school staff.
- Provides direct assistance to aid parents as they navigate the educational processed and array of resources.
- Provide workshops for families and educates on a verity of topics to enhance student wellness and learning.
- Connects families and educators to school personnel, web-based and community services.
- Their website information: <https://www.lcps.org/ParentResourceServices>

**School Board Liaison Beth Barts:**

- Equity Committee. It's critical to have SEAC member sit on the committee.
- Asked Mr. Doolittle to put an agenda item for partner organizations such as SEAC and MSAAC, to be added for newsletter.
- Hearing from families that are distressed at school board meetings. She asked questions about parent statements, pressed on concerns for IDEA not being met in the Hybrid situation, LCPS is only allowing to get services based on days they come in the building. Working for clarification on 9/22/2020 to getting students back in the school in October.

**Special Education Department, Dr. Patricia Nelson & Dr. Jones:**

- New Prior Notice and Parent/Guardian Consent:
  - LCPS didn't have contingency plans in place to support our students.
  - Wanted to add the new statement to act quickly without a meeting.
  - LCPS wanted to include a statement that stated you consent to IEP and means of instruction